

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2018

Dear Colleague,

Our nation's federal land management agencies have accumulated a \$16 billion deferred maintenance backlog. The longer we wait to address the crumbling infrastructure in our national parks and refuges, the worse and more expensive the problem gets. With growing momentum behind this effort to address deferred maintenance in our national parks and other public lands, we invite you to join us in supporting and cosponsoring the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act.

The National Park Service (NPS) manages more than 400 units--iconic landscapes, historic and cultural sites, trails, military battlegrounds, monuments, and memorials that received over 331 million visitors last year. Our national parks preserve and interpret our heritage for current and future generations. They also support a robust tourism economy. According to the NPS, national park visitation generated \$18.2 billion for our local park gateway communities in 2017 and supported 306,000 jobs.

However, despite their importance to our nation, national parks are falling into disrepair. As a result of the strain on resources caused by increased visitation, aging facilities, and inconsistent funding, the NPS has been unable to keep pace with park maintenance needs. Repairs to roads, bridges, water systems, visitor centers, trails, campgrounds, and historic structures have gone unaddressed for too long and the agency estimates it would cost nearly \$11.6 billion if it were to fix all the items on its deferred maintenance list (based on 2017 data).

Although the NPS backlog makes up most of the Department of the Interior's total backlog, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) also have significant maintenance backlogs. The FWS has an estimated deferred maintenance backlog of \$1.4 billion, the BLM has \$810 million, and BIE schools have \$634 million.

The Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act would provide dedicated annual federal funding to address the NPS, FWS, BLM, and BIE schools deferred maintenance needs. It would direct offshore and onshore mineral royalties that are not otherwise dedicated to other purposes to fund national park and other public land deferred maintenance. By ensuring the maintenance of our national parks and other public lands, the legislation would continue to preserve America's history and recreational opportunities, as well as protect local economies that depend on park tourism to flourish.

National parks and other public lands are deeply loved and supported by Americans and international visitors alike. With your support, Congress can make certain they are ready for their next hundred years of service to the American people.

We respectfully ask you to join us and cosponsor The Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act. If you would like to cosponsor this legislation or if you have any questions, please contact Terry Camp (Subcommittee on Federal Lands) at Terry.Camp@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



ROB BISHOP
Member of Congress



RAÚL GRIJALVA
Member of Congress